

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A procedure for removing a cross-linked water-blocking ~~or, water-repellant, or water-insoluble~~ finish from aramide fibers provided with a water-insoluble finish, comprising treating the aramide fibers with an agent that comprises at least one hydrophilic fluid, wherein the aramide fibers are present as a short-cut, random fiber or flat textile material, wherein the treating of the short-cut or random fiber is treating in the wash cycle of a washing machine or stirring, and wherein the treating of the flat textile material is treating in the wash cycle of a washing machine, stirring or treating with a water vapor stream, and wherein the at least one hydrophilic fluid is water, dimethyl sulfoxide, a solution of dimethyl sulfoxide in water, an aliphatic cyclic ester with 2 to 4 alkylene groups or an aliphatic alcohol with 1 to 5 carbon atoms.
2. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble finish of the aramide fibers is a cross-linked water-blocking finish.
3. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble finish of the aramide fibers is a water-repellant finish.
4. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the aramide fibers comprise m- or p-aramide.
5. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrophilic fluid is water.
6. (Original) The procedure according to claim 5, wherein the water has a temperature ranging from about 60 to about 120°C.
7. (Original) The procedure according to claim 5, wherein the water has a temperature ranging from about 85 to about 110°C.

8. (Original) The procedure according to claim 5, wherein the water has a temperature of about 100°C.
9. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrophilic fluid is dimethyl sulfoxide or a solution of dimethyl sulfoxide in water.
10. (Original) The procedure according to claim 9, wherein a concentration of dimethyl sulfoxide in water is from about 30 to 100 %w/w.
11. (Original) The procedure according to claim 9, wherein a concentration of dimethyl sulfoxide in water is from about 70 to 100 %w/w.
12. (Original) The procedure according to claim 9, wherein a temperature of the dimethyl sulfoxide or its aqueous solution is from about 20 to about 140°C.
13. (Original) The procedure according to claim 9, wherein a temperature of the dimethyl sulfoxide or its aqueous solution is from about 70 to about 110°C.
14. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrophilic fluid is an aqueous solution of an aliphatic cyclic ester with 2 to 4 alkylene groups.
15. (Original) The procedure according to claim 14, wherein the aliphatic cyclic ester is  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone.
16. (Original) The procedure according to claim 14, wherein a concentration of the aliphatic cyclic ester in water is from about 30 to about 80 %w/w.
17. (Original) The procedure according to claim 14, wherein a concentration of the aliphatic cyclic ester in water is from about 50 to about 70 %w/w.
18. (Original) The procedure according to claim 14, wherein a temperature of the aqueous solution of the aliphatic cyclic ester is from about 20 to about 90°C.

19. (Original) The procedure according to claim 14, wherein a temperature of the aqueous solution of the aliphatic cyclic ester is from about 60 to about 90°C.

20. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrophilic fluid is an aqueous solution of at least one aliphatic alcohol with 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

21. (Original) The procedure according to claim 20, wherein the aliphatic alcohol is methanol, ethanol, 1-propanol, isopropyl alcohol, 1-butanol, isobutyl alcohol, 2-butanol, tert-butanol, 1-pentanol, 2-pentanol, 3-pentanol or 2,2-dimethyl-1-propanol, individually or in combination.

22. (Original) The procedure according to claim 20, wherein a concentration of the aliphatic alcohol in water is from about 25 to about 70 %w/w.

23. (Original) The procedure according to claim 20, wherein a concentration of the aliphatic alcohol in water is from about 40 to about 70 %w/w.

24. (Original) The procedure according to claim 20, wherein a temperature of the aqueous solution of the aliphatic alcohol is from about 20 to about 60°C.

25. (Original) The procedure according to claim 20, wherein a temperature of the aqueous solution of the aliphatic alcohol is from about 40 to about 60°C.

26. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the treating comprises stirring the aramide fibers in at least one hydrophilic solvent that optionally contains a defoamer.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

29. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of the aramide fibers to the at least one hydrophilic fluid is from about 1:14 to about 1:1.

30. (Original) The procedure according to claim 29, wherein the weight ratio of the aramide fibers to the at least one hydrophilic fluid is from about 1:14 to about 1:6.

31. (Original) The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the agent further contains a defoamer.

32. (Original) The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the defoamer is a surfactant or a surfactant-containing composition.

33. (Original) The procedure according to claim 32, wherein the surfactant-containing composition is a detergent.

34. (Original) The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the defoamer in the at least one hydrophilic fluid is present in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 3 %w/w.

35. (Original) The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the defoamer in the at least one hydrophilic fluid is present in a concentration of from about 0.1 to about 2 %w/w.

36. (Original) The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the defoamer in the at least one hydrophilic fluid is present in a concentration of about 1 %w/w.

37. (Currently Amended) A process for forming a material, comprising removing a cross-linked water-blocking or, water-repellant, ~~or~~ water-insoluble finish from aramide fibers in accordance with the procedure of claim 1 to derive treated aramide fibers, and subsequently forming the treated aramide fibers into pulp or into a mixture with other fibers of synthetic or natural origin.

38. (Original) The process according to claim 37, wherein the treated aramide fibers have a swelling value of  $\leq 40$  %.